

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233813

FOLLOWING REPEAT ABU DHABI 1556 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUWAIT  
AMMAN BEIRUT JIDDA LONDON PARIS TEHRAN USCINCEUR  
COMIDEASTFOR 24 NOV

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1556

KUWAIT PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

EO 11652: ADS (DECLASSIFY NOV 24, 1975)

TAGS: MASS, FR, TC

SUBJ: DELIVERY OF MIRAGES TO ABU DHABI BEGINS

SUMMARY: FIRST THREE MIRAGE FIGHTERS DELIVERED BY GOF  
TO ABU DHABI ON NOVEMBER 23, WITH REMAINING 11 AIRCRAFT OF SQUADRON  
EXPECTED BEFORE END OF YEAR. PROMPT ADHERANCE BY GOF TO  
DELIVERY SCHEDULE REPRESENTS PLUS FOR LOCAL SALES EFFORTS  
BY OTHER FRENCH ARMS MANUFACTURERS. GOF ASSIGNING SMALL  
COMPONENT TO ASSIST ADDF AIR WING IN TRAINING AND MAIN-  
TENANCE OF MIRAGES. FRENCH CHARGE BELIEVES ZAYID HAS  
CREATED FUTURE PROBLEMS FOR HIMSELF BY TURNING MIRAGE  
PROGRAM COMPLETELY OVER TO SECONDED PAUUSTANI PERSONNEL.

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END SUMMARY.

1. WITHIN HOURS OF DEPARTURE UAE PRES SHAIKH ZAYID FOR ARAB SUMMIT CONF NOV 23, OFIRST THREE MIRAGE JET FIGHTERS OF SQUADRON PURCHASED YEAR AGO BY ABU DHABI FROM NEW FRENCH PRODUCTION IN DEAL THAT REPORTEDLY INVOLVED PAKISTAN, ARRIVED IN ABU DHABI. THREE MIRAGES, WHICH FERRIED TO UAE VIA IRAN BY FRENCH AIR FORCE PILOTS, DELIVERED AT THIS TIME SPECIALLY FOR EXHIBITIONS IN DEC 2 INDEPENDENCE DAY MILITARY REVIEW, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY UAEG DECIDED TO CANCEL.

2. ACCORDING TO FRENCH CHARGE BELLIVIER, REGULAR DELIVERY OF REMAINING NINE MIRAGE FIGHTERS PLUS TWO MIRAGE TRAINING AIRCRAFT WILL TAKE PLACE OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS. FROM BELLIVIER'S REMARKS, WE HAVE IMPRESSION ENTIRE SQUADRON WILL BE TURNED OVER TO AIR WING OF ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCE (-\$\$\*) WELL BEFORE END OF YEAR. HE SAID FRENCH MILITARY PILOTS WILL BE USED TO FERRY ALL AIRCRAFT TO INSURE THAT MOVEMENT THROUGH MIDDLE EAST CARRIED OUT PROPERLY. PRIOR TO ARRIVAL FIRST TRANCHE, FRENCH MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE LANDED ABU DHABI BRINGING LOAD OF SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT. BELLIVIER ADVISED THAT ALTHOUGH PAKISTANI MILITARY PERSONNEL SECONDED TO ADDF WILL INITIALLY OPERATE AND MAINTAIN MIRAGES, GOF IS FURNISHING SMALL TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE COMPONENT SO ADDF WILL BE ASSURED THAT EXPERT PILOT AND GROUND PERSONNEL WILL BE ON HAND DURING USUALLY DIFFICULT FAMILIARIZATION AND TRAINING STAGES. BELLIVIER AT PAINS TO STRESS THATVGOFGOF HAS NO INTENTION OF USING MIRAGE TRAINING TEAM AS WEDGE TO BECOME INVOLVED ON PERMANENT BASIS IN MILITARY ADVISORY ROLE IN UAE. SALE OF MIRAGES TO AD WAS STRICTLY COMML TRANSACTION AND GOF DOES NOT VIEW TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF TRAINING CADRE AS INTRODUCTION OF POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED MIL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. TRAINING COMPONENT WILL STAY, HE SAID, ONLY SO LONG AS IS NECESSARY TO ASSURE SMOOTH FAMILIARIZATION AND TO TRAIN UAE NATIONALS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT. INITIAL PHASE OF THIS TRAINING PROGRAM HAS ALREADY COMMENCED IN FRANCE.

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3. BELLIVIER PROFESSES TO BE APPALLED AT DEGREE TO WHICH ZAYID HAS TURNED OVER ENTIRE MIRAGE PROGRAM TO PAKISTANI SECONDED PERSONNEL. HE MENTIONED THAT OVER PAST WEEK IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY FOR HIM TO HAVE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH AIR WING OF ADDF TO COORDINATE DETAILS OF MIRAGE ARRIVAL, AND ON EVERY OCCASION HE HAS MET AND DEALT WITH ONLY PAK OFFICERS AND NON-COMS. NOT ONLY WERE NO LOCAL ARABS INVOLVED, BUT CHARGE AMAZED TO FIND THAT QUALIFIED BRITISH

AND JORDANIAN FLIGHT PERSONNEL IN ADDF HAVE BEEN SHUNTED ASIDE FOR WHAT OBVIOUSLY IN SOME CASES ARE LESS TA- LENTED AND QUALIFIED PAKS. GIVEN LONG LEAD TIME BEFORE ANY NUMBER OF LOCAL ARABS WILL HAVE REQUISITE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO OPERATE MIRAGES, BELLIVIER AND I AGREED IT IS UNLIKELY PAKS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY LOCALS FOR EXTENDED PERIOD IN THEIR PRESENT DOMINANT ROLE WITHIN THE ADDF AIR WING. THIS CONTROL COULD BE STRENGTHENED CONSI- DERABLY IF RUMORED DISSOLUTION OF CENTRALIZED COMMAND STRUCTURE OF ADDF AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY SEPARATE LAND, AIR AND SEXNCOMMANDS REPORTING TO MINDEF TAKES PLACE SOON. OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR AIR FORCE COMMANDER IS PRESENT CO OF ADDF AIR WING, PAKISTANI AF WING COMMANDER SADRUDDIN. RESENTMENT AGAINST PAKS, SHOULD IT DEVELOP, COULD BE SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR ZAYID AND HIS MILITARY.

4. COMMENT: IT WORTH NOTING THAT DELIVERY OF MIRAGES BY DESSAULT IS BEGINNING ON SCHEDULE. THIS PERFORMANCE IS EXCELLENT SALES ENDORSEMENT FOR OTHER FRENCH MIL EQUIP- MENT MANUFACTURERS WHO ARE PUSHING HARD FOR ADDF ORDERS. UNDERSTAND ITEM GOF MOST INTERESTED IN PEDDLING HERE IS CROTON MISSILE SYSTEM. ARRIVAL OF MIRAGES ALSO TIMELY FOR FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE IT WILL CREATE FOR ZAYID'S STATE VISIT TO FRANCE IN JANUARY. EXCLUSIVITY OF PAK PARTICIPA- TION IN MIRAGE PROGRAM PROBABLY ALSO RELATED TO REPORT PREVIOUSLY NOTED BY POST THAT ENTIRE PAK UNIT APPEARS, IN FACT, TO HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO ABU DHABI TO OPERATE MIRAGES. GRIFFIN  
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 28 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**TAGS:** MASS, FR, TC, PK  
**To:** ISLAMABAD NEW DELHI  
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